

Community of Llanfoist Fawr

Current Community Format

1. The current community arrangements in Llanfoist Fawr consist of four wards, Llanfoist, Llanellen, Llanwenarth Citra and Llanwenarth Ultra. The community has a total electorate of 2716 and is represented by 12 community councillors. The electorate per ward and number of councillors is as follows:

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanellen	411	2
Llanfoist	1026	3
Llanwenarth Citra	139	1
Llanwenarth Ultra	1140	6

Natural Boundaries / Key Features

2. The working group consider there to be a number of natural boundaries within the community of Llanfoist including the A465, A4042, A40 and the railway adjacent to the A40 as well as the Blorenge mountain.

Electorate Forecast

3. It is forecast that the electorate within the Llanfoist ward will increase by 542 to 1568 due to developments at various sites within the ward.

Representations Received

4. Representation was received from Llanfoist Community Council in relation to its community arrangements. On the whole, the community council wish for the current arrangements to remain in place with an increase to the number of councillors representing the Llanfoist ward from 3 to 6.
 - 4.1. Abergavenny Town Council submitted representation proposing that the Llanfoist ward and Llanwenarth Citra ward be merged in to the community of Abergavenny due to the need for communities to be fit for purpose and be large enough to take advantage of economies of scale.
 - 4.2. Llanfoist Community Council submitted a secondary representation in response to the proposal put forward by Abergavenny Town Council and, in summary, highlighted the following reasons as to why the areas should not be merged:
 - That Llanfoist is geographically separate from Abergavenny with the River Usk forming an obvious boundary

- That the proposed increase in population will ensure that the Llanfoist community remains a viable and extremely effective community with members who have developed a good relationship with the electorate
- It would be detrimental to the identity of Llanfoist to merge with Abergavenny as the needs of the Llanfoist as a rural community are very different to those of the town

4.3. The working group also attended a meeting of Llanfoist Community Council to better understand the concerns and nature of the community to assist them in the review process.

Recommendations

External Boundaries

5. The working group considered the current arrangements for the community of Llanfoist and considered the representations that had been received in relation to this review. As stated in the proposals for Abergavenny, the working group do not concur with the proposals from Abergavenny Town Council that the Llanfoist ward should be merged with its community. The group consider that the River Usk and A465 act as two distinct natural boundaries that separate the community areas of Llanfoist and Abergavenny.

5.1. Taking in to consideration the use of the River Usk as a natural boundary between the two communities, the Llanwenarth Citra ward currently of the Llanfoist community is situated north of the river adjacent to the community of Abergavenny. Whilst there is a small bridge crossing the river, the bridge is situated in the Gilwern ward and requires electors to leave Monmouthshire, enter Powys and return to Monmouthshire to access the Llanwenarth Citra ward. The main channel of communication for residents in the Llanwenarth Citra ward is along the A40. In order for residents to reach the community of Llanfoist they need to travel through the community of Abergavenny.

For the above reasons the working group propose that the Llanwenarth Citra ward forms part of the community of Abergavenny. Whilst the representation from Llanfoist refer to an historic link between Llanwenarth Citra and the remainder of the community of Llanfoist, the working group consider that the current channels of communication via the A40 provide a strong link between this ward and the community of Abergavenny.

The working group accept the representation from Llanfoist community council that the Llanwenarth Citra ward is a rural ward and not an urban town area and therefore propose to retain the Llanwenarth Citra ward as a separate ward of the community with its own representation. The working group noted however, that whilst Llanwenarth Citra is a rural ward, it does share characteristics and links with the Cantref ward of the community of Abergavenny in relation to the Sugar Loaf and strengthens the link between Llanwenarth Citra and the community of Abergavenny.

5.2. The working group also considered the eastern boundary of the community of Llanfoist that follows the River Usk south from the A465. The group consider that the area along the A4042

south of the Hardwick roundabout to Llanellen should be included in the community of Llanfoist and not the community of Llanover, given its strong links and channel of communication along the A4042. As stated in the proposal for the community of Abergavenny, it is proposed that the external boundary of the community of Abergavenny is amended to follow the railway line. The group therefore propose that the eastern boundary of the community of Llanfoist is amended to continue following the railway south from the Hardwick roundabout and re-join the River Usk near the Glan Usk estate.

- 5.3. The group also considered the arrangements for the Llanwenarth Ultra ward of the Llanfoist community. With the Llanwenarth Ultra ward being the most populated ward within the community of Llanfoist and separated from the community of Llanfoist along the B4246, the group considered the potential for the Llanwenarth Ultra ward to have its own community. The Terms of Reference for this review identified a minimum of 1,000 electors within a community and the current Llanwenarth Ultra ward currently has an electorate of 1,140. Whilst the group acknowledge the link between the wards of Llanfoist and Llanwenarth Ultra along the B4246, both villages are situated either side of the Blorenge mountain with enough of a 'no mans land' situated between the communities to justify a separation. Additionally, access to the village of Govilon has been eased by the development of the A465 with a secondary access to the village available from this road as well as through Llanfoist via the B4246.

Taking the above in to consideration the working group propose that the Llanwenarth Ultra ward be removed from the community of Llanfoist to create its own community. The community should be classed as a 'mixed' community given the urban area around the village of Govilon but rural areas around the Blorenge. However under a mixed ratio banding there would not be the sufficient seven councillors required to create the community when implementing the ratio to the electors within the community. The group therefore propose that the minimum seven councillors will represent the new community giving a ratio of 1:163. Whilst this is close to the rural banding, the group believe that the unique geographic location of the ward, as well as the significant number of electors residing in the community, justify the deviation from the Terms of Reference in creating its own community. The group propose a new name for the community of Govilon but welcome recommendations for suitable alternative names for the community.

Internal Boundaries

Llanellen

- 5.4. The working group considered the current boundaries for the Llanellen ward and believe that the existing arrangements are fit for purpose apart from the amendments to the eastern boundary as stated in 5.2 above.

Llanfoist

- 5.5. The working group considered the current arrangements for the Llanfoist ward in conjunction with the representations received for the ward and concur that the ward should not be merged

with the community of Abergavenny as stated in 5. above. The western boundary between Llanfoist and Llanwenarth Ultra has been amended to follow the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and provide a clear boundary, following natural features, between the two areas.

Llanwenarth Citra

5.6. The group propose that the Llanwenarth Citra ward forms part of the community of Abergavenny. See section 5 of the Abergavenny Community for further information.

Llanwenarth Ultra

5.7. The working group considered the existing arrangements for the Llanwenarth Ultra ward and consider that the ward should be separate from the community of Llanfoist to form its own community (see paragraph 5.3 above for further information).

Proposed Community and Community Ward Names

6. The group propose no amendment to the community name of Llanfoist and the wards Llanfoist, Llanellen and Llanwenarth Citra.

It is proposed to amend the name of the new community for the Llanwenarth Ultra ward to Govilon however the working group welcome recommendations to more suitable alternatives.

Proposed community electoral arrangements

7. The working group consider both Llanfoist and Govilon communities to fall within the mixed category for elector/councillor ratio resulting in an ideal ratio of 250 electors per councillor. The above changes to the community boundaries will result in the following electoral arrangements for the community.

As per the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that a community must be represented by a minimum of seven councillors in order to conduct their business effectively. To that end, the Govilon community will be represented by seven councillors rather than five as per the above ratio.

Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Llanellen	418	2
Llanfoist	1568	6
Community Ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Govilon	1140	7

Working Group Individual Member Comments

8. All members of the working group approved the proposals for the community of Llanfoist and Govilon